



## It's a Go!

### Isaac Newton To Launch High School Program Fall of 2016

"Well, that is just great, great news!" said Dick Felter, Emeritus Board member, after learning of the Linn Christian Education Association Board's vote to proceed with beginning a high school program. Mr. Felter, one of the school's founders, along with many past board members, are more than familiar with the challenges of studying and implementing a high school program. To see it come to fruition has been a longtime prayer for Mr. Felter and many others.

#### Timing Is Right

Dean Ridder, Head of School, unearthed a packed folder titled "High School Exploration" that contained all the work done investigating a high school program that a former Board had worked on in the 90's, with a note across the top that read "nearly impossible." But thanks to recent changes involving technology, scholarships, and collaboration with other high school and college programs, the High School Exploration Steering Committee and subcommittees were able to re-think high school in new, innovative ways.

The result was a unanimous Board vote to proceed with a freshman class in the Fall of 2016, adding a grade each year. "Although we have studied adding a high school on and off for many years in the past year or two we've had a tremendous increase in interest from parents at Isaac Newton and in the



community asking us to develop a high school program," said Mr. Ridder. "We also have strong interest from the current 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to be part of a new high school. We felt we could not ignore this any longer, that we had to pray and plan in earnest, and that starting a high school would be a natural progression to the outstanding program we already offer."

#### Dynamic Partnership with Colorado Christian University

The high school program will be an accredited program that prepares college bound students.

"Our school's mission is to provide academic excellence and Christlike character development, and we intend to offer a high school program that builds on this," explained Josh Davis, Board President. "We will also be partnering with Colorado Christian University to offer students dual credit options during their junior and senior years. This will give students the opportunity to earn up to about a year's worth of credit toward college, and CCU credits are accepted at almost every public and private college and university in the country. Included in the CCU program is a plan to use current and future Isaac Newton faculty members to teach the courses by becoming adjunct professors at the University."

Athletic Director Craig Schultz said that the sports program will be limited at first and that the school plans to be involved in Cedar Rapids Public School athletics until we can field our own sports program.



The high school will offer a vocal and instrumental music program, but this will also take some time to ramp up. The plan is to explore unique music and drama offerings that can be done well at a smaller school. Some students may also elect to participate in a local high school marching band or other music program that the Academy doesn't offer.

#### Planning for Growth

During the past year, the Academy added a 13,000 square foot Activity Center to its campus, which houses a high school regulation size basketball and volleyball court. The school also added extra parking.

To accommodate enrollment growth, the school will be repurposing gym space left vacant when the new gymnasium was built. The leading idea is to move the cafeteria and teacher's lounge to repurposed areas, freeing up two additional classrooms; the repurposed gym space can also accommodate more learning space. In addition, when the site was prepared for the Activity Center, it was also prepared to accommodate an additional bank of classrooms, including a Science/STEM lab. A capital campaign will address those needs as well as paying down the remaining mortgage from the Activity Center.

Mr. Ridder stated that the program's first hire will be a semi-trained Bible professor who will teach junior and senior high Bible classes, including apologetics, discipleship and leadership, and who can serve as a spiritual formation director for the school.

Tuition will fall in the average range of other private high school programs in the state. Tuition for the freshman class will be approximately \$6,700, and the Academy has several needs-based financial assistance programs, including STO funding. "We intend to deliver the highest value for each tuition dollar," said Davis. "I think when you consider the potential of basically knocking out a year of college while still in high school, attending this program makes financial sense, too. We are very supportive of school choice, and this program gives Cedar Rapids parents looking for a top quality non-denominational education an excellent choice.

For more information, contact Isaac Newton Christian Academy at 362-9512, or visit their website at [www.incaonline.org](http://www.incaonline.org). You can access the entire FAQ document at [www.incaonline.org](http://www.incaonline.org).